

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
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THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
CALCUTTA

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Front Cover	:	Reproduction from 'Across three seas' (Voyage of Afanasii Nikitin).
3rd Cover	:	Painting of Nikolas Reorich, a pioneer in the promotion of Indo-Russian relations, reproduction from his book in the National Library.
4th Cover	:	New look of the Post Office in the National Library Campus.

(Pic : Reprography Division, National Library)

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The National Library Newsletter

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THE QUARTER UNDER REVIEW

The Newsletter is an organ reflecting the activities of an institution. Nevertheless it aims at developing linkage between organisations, institutions and associations which are designed to foster amity, solidarity and integrity among themselves. After the publication of the combined issue for the first half of 1997-98, we pledge to maintain currency of issue.

Huge task lies ahead to attend to and carry out massive programme. The magnificent heritage building where 2.5 million holdings of the Library are kept, requires immediate repair on a large scale. The ceiling leaks, telephones do not work, white ants gobble. Besides this deplorable physical situation the quality of services is not rendered to our satisfaction for dearth of staff. This is yet to be improved. The hope rests on the young working force of the National Library, a dynamic force which needs encouragement, guidance and support besides blessing of senior library professional workers and the authority.

Programmes dedicated to the celebration of 50 years of India's Independence continues smoothly with active participation of the library staff, readers and other dignitaries of the city. During the period of celebration, the National Library Newsletter will have a new look from Oct-Dec. '97 issue. Readers' participation as also the active support of the library staff and that of colleagues from other libraries through contribution of articles on professional librarianship, suggestions for better library services, presenting information about library seminars, conferences, workshops, training courses etc. in different parts of the country and abroad on library related affairs are welcome to make this Newsletter more useful.

SLAVONIC LANGUAGES DIVISION

After the reorganisation of the European Languages Division in April 1985 the collections in Russian and other Slavic languages received a new nomenclature the Slavonic Languages. Initially the collection of Slavonic languages comprised part of the collections in the foreign languages and developed under the Cataloguing I Division. With the appointment of Assistant Librarian, Russian in 1962, the responsibility of collection building and maintenance of collections in Russian and other foreign languages rested upon the Assistant Librarian, Russian. In February 1968 when the collections in European languages were shifted to the seventh floor of the newly constructed Annexe building, the European Languages Division started functioning as an independent division. With the passage of time the collections grew in different foreign languages, and the necessity to reorganise the European languages arose. It was decided to put collections in one family of languages together and bring in closer languages under one division. Thus the following language divisions were created in April 1985,

- I. Slavonic Languages Division
- II. Germanic Languages Division
- III. Romance Languages Division
- IV. West Asian and African Languages Division, and
- V. East Asian Languages Division

The Slavonic Languages Division (SLD) has a fairly good collection of books, periodicals, newspapers, microfilms etc. in Russian language as also books and periodicals in other Slavic languages, comprising of the languages of erstwhile Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia (Serbia & Croatia). In all, the SLD deals with reading materials in 28 languages. The total collection of Slavonic Languages as it stands now is about sixty five thousand.

The Slavonic Languages Division is responsible for the development of collection in all its component languages. Therefore, starting from book selection, accessioning and processing to maintenance of them, and service to the readers rest on the staff of this Division.

The sources of acquisition of reading materials are :

- a) Exchange,
- b) Gift and
- c) Purchase

While very few publications are purchased through the central Acquisition Division, the major sources of acquisition are gift and exchange. The Library has book exchange relation with almost all the national libraries of the republics of the former Soviet Union, now Confederation of Independent States (CIS). There are nearly 35 institutions/libraries in the CIS countries with whom the National Library has book exchange relations. Until the collapse of Soviet Union, the Library was receiving over 2000 titles of publication and over 100 titles of periodical publications annually, but now the number of acquisition has sharply fallen down.

The process of procurement under gift & exchange is that the SLD receives exchange lists of publications offered by the libraries/institutions abroad. Titles are selected by the Assistant Librarian by himself or with the assistance of readers and scholars. The titles thus selected are enlisted and sent to the Gift & Exchange Division for onward transmission to the exchange partners. The books received from the exchange partner thereafter are sent to the SLD. The books demanded in exchange are procured by the Gift & Exchange Division and supplied to the exchange partners.

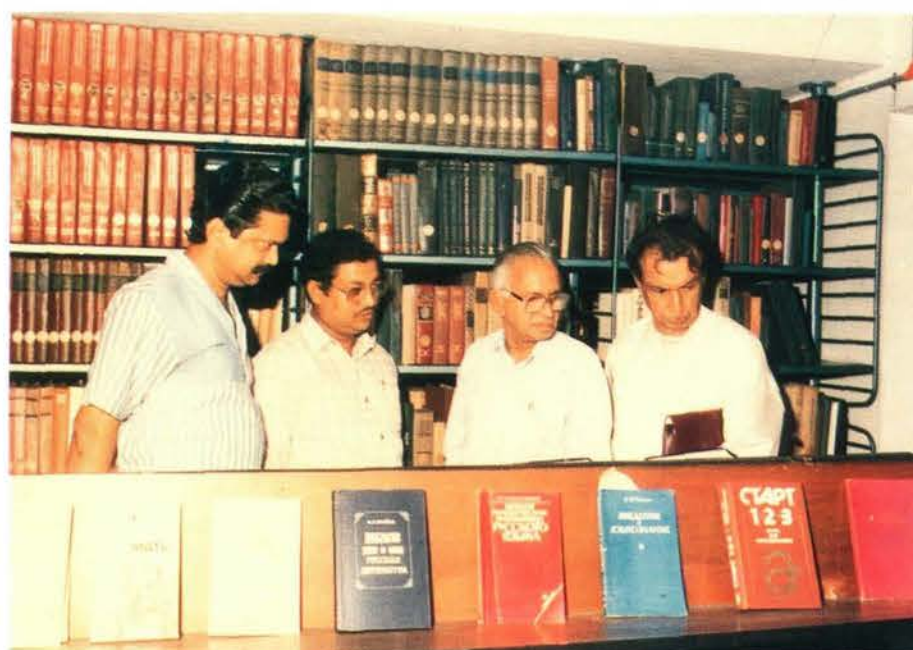
The SLD has received some collections of Russian, Slovak and other language books as gift both from individual scholars and institutions. Significant among them is the Prof. C. N. Chakravarti collection of rare Russian books.

After the books are received, they are accessioned, processed and finally stacked on the shelves in the floor. Both stack of the Slavonic languages and its Reading Room services are maintained by the Division. While regular cleaning and order is maintained, special care is taken to preserve the publications by application of pesticides etc.

A small Reading Room is maintained for nearly 24 readers between 9.30 a.m. and 6 p.m. on all the working days. On holidays the publications requisitioned on any working day are transferred on demand to the General Reading Room in the 2nd floor for consultation.

The readers are also allowed to reprographic services as per rules. The lending facilities however, is discouraged as the publications are mostly gifts or out of print or too old.

The Division extends reference and bibliographic services to readers as also translation services to other divisions and if possible helps the readers too in their pursuit of studies.



Russian collection in the Slavonic Languages Division shown to Prof. C. N. Chakravarti and Prof. G. Mukherjee.

The treasury of Slavonic Languages Division is full of collected works of eminent Russian writers, poets, historians and statesmen, and a valuable collection of good reference works. The special collection of Indian works translated into Russian has further enriched the holdings of the Division. A few notable collections are mentioned below :

1. The Great Soviet Encyclopedia in 3 editions with annual supplements in Russian;
2. Encyclopedias of History, Philosophy, Theatre, Literature, Chemistry and other subjects;
3. Bilingual Scientific and Technical Dictionaries as also general and subject dictionaries;

4. Russian book Chronicles from 1907 to date;
5. Russian Biographical Dictionary in 15 volumes;
6. Collection Indiana in Russian comprising of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Vedas, Rabindranath Tagore's collected works in 8 and 12 volumes, works of Indian writers and poets, learning Indian languages books through Russian medium, History of India, Biographies of Indian statesmen etc.
7. Collection of books in Russian Philology, Art and Culture;
8. Collected works of Leo Tolstoy in 90 volumes, Collected works of Maxim Gorky, Anton Pavlovich Chekhov, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Pushkin, Mayakovsky and many other contemporary poets and writers;
9. History of Russia by S. M. Solovev in 15 volumes — a rare publication.

In addition, to support research work the Division has a large number of books, periodical publications and newspapers in Russian and other Slavic languages.

NEW DIRECTOR TAKES OVER

Dr. Ramanuj Bhattacharjee, Director, Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation took additional charge of the Office of the Director, National Library on the 7th July 1997 (A.N.). Dr. Bhattacharjee will continue to officiate and exercise powers of the Head of the Department till an incumbent joins as Director on regular basis. However, the hopes of the whole gamut of readers and employees for improvement in library's overall condition rest on the administrative ability of Dr. Bhattacharjee as also in his interest in the professional advancement in this premier institution.

EXHIBITIONS

50 Years of India's Independence

To begin with the year long celebration of 50 years of independence of India, the Oriya Division of the National Library organised a week long exhibition of Oriya monographs, photographs, and press clippings on and from 8th August '97 to display freedom movement in Orissa. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Director, Dr. Ramanuj Bhattacharya.



An exhibition on "15 August : Selected Documents" is inaugurated by Prof. Amlan Dutta, former Vice Chancellor of Visva-Bharati

15 August 1947 : Selected Documents

The National Library, Calcutta organised an exhibition on 19th August 1997 to start with the year long celebration of 50 years of India's Independence. The exhibition was inaugurated by the eminent economist and ex-Vice Chancellor, Visva-Bharati, Professor Amlan Dutta in the presence of distinguished personalities of the city, readers and the staff of the National Library. On the occasion the Professor delivered a profound lecture on the freedom movement and values of the day. The exhibition was covered by the press and media.

Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya — A Homage

The National Library, Calcutta organised an exhibition on Dr. Birendra Kumar Bhattacharya, an eminent Assamese writer and winner of Jnanpith award. On the occasion books, articles and other writings of the latter were displayed from 11th to 17th August 1997 in the exhibition hall of the Library.

HINDI WORKSHOP

The Hindi Cell of the National Library, Calcutta organised a two days Hindi Workshop on 25th and 26th August, 1997 with the aim to remove hesitation in writing letters, notes and other official matters in Hindi. 20 staff members from the National Library, Calcutta who had working knowledge of Hindi were imparted training in the workshop.

MISCELLANY

Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore

On the 56th death anniversary of Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore, the National Library, Calcutta offered a glorious tribute to the poet on 7th August 1997. A humble function was arranged on the occasion.

Thou hast made me known to friends whom I knew not. Thou hast given me seats in homes not my own. Thou hast brought the distant near and made a brother of the stranger.

I am uneasy at heart when I have to leave my accustomed shelter; I forget that there abides the old in the new and that there also thou abidest.

Through birth and death, in this world or in others, wherever thou leadest me it is thou, the same, the one companion of my endless life who ever linkest my heart with bonds of joy to the unfamiliar.

When one knows thee, then alien there is none, then no door is shut. Oh, grant me my prayer that I may never lose the bliss of the touch of the one in the play of the many.

Rabindranath Tagore

Independence Day Celebrated



The Director takes the salute of guards on Independence Day

On 15th August 1997 the National Library, Calcutta celebrated Independence Day. While the Security Guards held a parade headed by the Security Officer, the wards of the security personnel organised a small concert of patriotic songs. The Director hoisted the Tricolour flag and addressed the audience.



N. B. Inamdar Expired

N. B. Inamdar, Ex-University Librarian, Osmania University and former Director, Institute of Library Science, Hyderabad expired on 19 August 1997. In his long professional career of librarianship, Mr. Inamdar had actively participated in national and international seminars and conferences, had travelled extensively round the world to educate himself with the working of different kinds of libraries. As an editor of five books and contributor of more than 50 papers, Mr. Inamdar dedicated his life in education and library services.

In the National Library, Calcutta Mr. Inamdar was known best for his active participation in series of meetings on Standardization of diacritics and transliteration for computerisation of information from May 1989. The staff of the National Library, Calcutta express condolences on N. M. Inamdar's demise.



Mr. M. S. Gill, Chief Election Commissioner on a visit to National Library

8.	A	Bibilography of Indology, Indian Anthropology, Vol. 1, 1960	Rs.	5.00
	B	Bibilography of Indology, Vol. 2 Indian Botany, Part-I (A-J), 1961	Rs.	8.00
	C	Bibilography of Indology, Vol. 2 Indian Botany, Part-II (K-Z), 1965	Rs.	8.25
	D	Bibilography of Indology Vol. III, Bengali Language & Literature, Part-I (Early period) 1964	Rs.	6.00
9.		Author Table for Indian Names, 1961	Rs.	9.50
10.		The Sapru Correspondence. A check list (First series), 1961	Rs.	13.40
11.		Index Translationum Indicarum, 1963	Rs.	10.00
12.		India's National Library, 1961	Rs.	10.00
13.		A Bibliography of Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias in Indian Languages, 1964	Rs.	4.75
14.		Author Catalogue of Printed Books in European Languages , Supplement (1951-1961) Vol. I (A)	Rs.	16.50
15.		Subject Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages, 1951-1961, Vol. 1-A, 1966	Rs.	15.00
16.		Subject Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages, 1951-1961, Vol. IIB, 1973	Rs.	13.95
17.		Author Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages Supplement (1951-1961), Vol. II-B, 1973	Rs.	13.50
18.		Catalogue of Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit Books, Vol. III, (R-Z), 1973	Rs.	125.00
19.		Author Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages, Supplement (1951-61), Vol. III-C, 1975	Rs.	12.00
20.		Author Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages, Supplement (1951-61), Vol. IV letter(D-E)	Rs.	60.00

21.	Author Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages, Supplement (1951-61), Vol. V (letter (F-G)	Rs. 35.00
22.	Catalogue of printed Books in the Asutosh collection Vol. III, History, Geography, Travels & Biography.	Rs. 256.00
23.	Author Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages, Supplement (1951-61) Vol. VI, (H-I), 1980	Rs. 55.00
24.	Author Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages, Supplement (1951-61) Vol. VII, (J-L), 1982	Rs. 56.00
25.	Author Catalogue of printed Books in European Languages Supplement (1951-61) Vol. VIII, (M), 1982	Rs. 67.00
26.	Catalogue of printed Books in the Asutosh Collection Vol. IV, Science & Technology, 1983	Rs. 95.00
27.	India's National Library: Systematization and Modernization, 1987	Rs. 210.00
28.	National Library and Public Libraries in India, 1987	Rs. 30.00
29.	Rabindra Granthasuchi in Bengali Language, Vol. I, part-I, 1988	Rs. 110.00
30.	Conservation of Library Materials, 1985	Rs. 78.00
31.	Indological studies & South Asia Bibliography, 1988	Rs. 115.00
32.	Bibliographical Control in India, 1988	Rs. 75.00
33.	Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts in Buhar Collection, 1988	Rs. 110.00
34.	J. N. Sarkar's Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts (Xerox copy) 1988	Rs. 40.00
35.	Catalogue of Sanskrit, Pali & Prakrit Books Supplement (1947-1980) (A-Z), 1988	Rs. 778.00
36.	Author Catalogue of Printed Books in European Languages, Supplement, 1951-61, Vol. XI, letter (T-Z)	Rs. 297.00

37.	Author Catalogue of Printed Books in Tamil Languages, Supplement, 1951-61, Letter (S), Vol. (X).	Rs. 165.00
38.	Author Catalogue of Printed Books in Tamil Language Vol. 1, Letter (A-K), 1990	Rs. 70.00
39.	National Library and Public Library Development 150 Anniversary of the Calcutta Public Library	Rs. 169.00
40.	Author Catalogue of Printed Books in Hindi Language. Vol. 1, letter (A-B)	Rs. 180.00
41.	Planning Modernisation and Preservation Programme in South Asian Libraries, 1992	Rs. 280.00
42.	Brochure on National Library, 1992	Rs. 43.00
43.	Glimpses of India through Western Eyes	Rs. 45.00
44.	Author Catalogue of printed Books in English Languages Vol. I. Letter A, Suppl. (1962-1980)	Rs. 507.00
45.	Dr. S. R. Ranganathan : A Tribute	Rs. 83.00
46.	A set of post cards with pictures selected from the National Library Collection	Rs. 40.00
47.	Author Catalogue of Printed Books in English Language. Suppl. 1962-1980, Vol. II, Letter B, pt. I	



